(d) For evacuation of North-East Refinery products, including NRL, following action has been taken:-

1. North-East Evacuation, including NRL has been worked out by oil companies along with Railways.

2. 1200 tank wagons are under procurement under own-your-wagon scheme by oil companies for evacuation of product from NRL besides tank wagons purchased by Railways.

गुजरात में प्राकृतिक गैस क्षमता

2585. श्री गोपाल सिंह जी॰ सोलंकी: क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या गुजरात राज्य में इस शताब्दी के अंत तक प्राकृतिक गैस क्षमता तथा उसके उत्पादन के संबंध में कोई लक्ष्य निर्धारित किया गया है,

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या इस प्रयोजनार्थ कोई धनराशि निर्धारित की गई है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है तथा यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण है?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री संतोष कुमार गंगवार): (क) और (ख) जी, हां। 1999-2000 की अवधि में गुजरात में प्राकृतिक गैस का उत्पादन 3.97 बी सी एम होने का अनुमान है।

(ग) और (घ) ओ एन जी सी ने गुजरात में वर्ष 1998-99 और 1999-2000 में हाइड्रोकार्बन की खोज और उत्पादन के लिए क्रमशः 701 करोड. रुपए और 804 करोड. रुपए का बजट परिव्यय निर्धारित किया है।

उपर्युक्त के अतिरिक्त, गुजरात में वर्ष 1998-99 में छोटे क्षेत्रों में निजी कंपनियों द्वारा किया गया अनुमानित खर्च लगभग 64 करोड़ रुपये है।

Share Prices of Oil Companies

2586. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been contemplating selling off its equity stake in the oil companies in the country to reduce the fiscal deficit;

(b) whether it is a fact that the share prices of these companies have substantially fallen;

(c) if so, the percentage by which the share prices of the oil companies have fallen stating the reasons therefor; and

(d) the extent to which Government is likely to suffer a loss due to sharp dip in this share values of the oil companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The Government has disinvested, during 1998-99, a part of its equity held in Gas Authority of India Limited in the domestic market through book building process to increase liquidity of its shares in the market, with the objective of establishing a realistic bench mark price for future disinvestment in GDR market. In addition to the above, the Government has also permitted Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) to purchase its equity in each other, to foster vertical integration in the hydrocarbon sector among Public Sector Undertakings and to promote business synergy to enhance their global competitiveness.

(b) and (c) The movements in the prices of shares of these companies traded in the Stock Exchange, Mumbai have shown a mixed trend during February-March 1999 as indicated below. Current fluctuation in the market prices of the shares of these companies stems from several reasons, the chief of which is the depressed outlook of global oil industry and its impact on the domestic stock markets.

Company	Percentage change in the share prices	
	February 1999	March 1999 (up to 10.3.1999)
IOC	(-) 14.99	(+) 4.5
ONGC	(-) 10.55	(-) 8.3
GAIL	(-) 16.41	(+) 8.9

Note: 1: The monthly percentage change in the prices of February 1999 has been calculated on the basis of closing month-end prices as on 29th January 1999 (base price) and 26th February, 1999.

2. The monthly percentage change in the prices of March 1999 has been calculated on the basis of closing month-end prices as on 26th February, 1999 (base price) and 10th March 1999.

(d) The sales of shares of these companies have been carried out on the basis of the prevailing market prices.

Oil exploration by private parties

2587. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a sharp increase in reserves given to private parties for exploration of oil;

(b) if so, the details thereof, party-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that earlier estimate of reserves was nearly half of what is estimated now;

(d) who did the estimation earlier and who has done the same now; and

(e) does it mean that there is any loss to Government in charging the fees based on the lower estimate of reserves earlier?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) While initial in place reserves in most of the fields awarded to Joint venture/private parties have increased, it has also decreased in some fields.

As per the initial estimation by ONGC/OIL, the reserves in joint venture fields was 421.248 million metric tonnes (MMT). This has increased to 497.77 as on 1.4.98 as per estimation by the Operator/DGH/JV.

In the case of private fields the initial estimation by ONGC was 23.682 MMT. This has increased to 61.695 to 84.034 MMT as on 1.4.98 as per estimation by DGH/Operator.

(e) No, Sir.

Alliance between IOC and ONGC

2588. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for a strategic alliance between the IOC and ONGC;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what impact is it going to have on the working of these two public sector companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal for a corporate strategic alliance between IOC and ONGC, according to which IOC and ONGC have presently decided to acquire 10% shareholding of each other.

(c) The alliance would help synergise their operations for the common good of both and partake of current international trends of mutuality in working in the hydrocarbon sector. It could be a forerunner to possible vertical integration and help both companies to enhance their global standing and core competencies from "drilling to dispensing." While retaining focus on respective core business and competencies, both IOC and ONGC would explore investment options for securing assured growth and profitability.

Proposal to Hook-up pipelines

2589. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to hook-up the Kandla-Bhatinda and the Mathura-Ambala-Jalandhar pipelines;

(b) if so, the details thereof and progress so far made in this project;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the estimated amount of expenditure involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) Kandla-Bhatinda Pipeline has already been hooked up at Panipat to Mathura-Ambala-Jalandhar Pipeline in May, 1996. The completion cost of the project was Rs. 17.45 crores.

उत्तर प्रदेश में राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों तथा राज्यीय राजमार्गों पर पेट्रोल पम्प

2590. **श्री मुनव्वर हसन:** क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) उत्तर प्रदेश में राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों तथा राज्यीय राजमार्गों पर चल रहे पेट्रोल पम्पों का ब्यौरा क्या है और इनकी स्थापना एवं आबंटन संबंधी मानदंड क्या-क्या हैं,